

MIDWEEK BASS ANGLERS OF ARIZONA INC

Bass Bites

FISHING WEDNESDAYS - NOT WEEKENDS!



OCTOBER 2014

ESTABLISHED JANUARY 27, 2005

EDITOR: TERRY TASSIN

President's Perspective

By Gary Grimes



The Apache Lake tournament is always a great time for the Midweek Bass Anglers, and this month's event was no exception. The fishing is always fun, and I spoke with numerous guys who caught five pounders, albeit pre-fishing, but still fun nonetheless.

My favorite part of the trip is the camp and the camaraderie. Even though the tournament does not start until Wednesday, many guys will start showing up on the Sunday before, and by Monday most of the anglers are in camp. Everyone rises before dawn, brews up a pot of camp coffee, and is on the water prior to safe light in order to enjoy a day of fishing, trying to figure out what will be the best strategy to help their team

win on tournament day. After a long day on the water, we all return to the camp compound, work on boats and tackle for about an hour, and then its time to relax and unwind. Ice-cold beers are shared, along with some of the finest camp cooking I have seen. The Tuesday night barbeque was outstanding. Gary Asmus was the grill master, and cooked up close to 100 burgers and brats. Rusty Murdock volunteered to bring potato salad, and shows up with not only the potato salad, but also an Asian noodle salad, as well as three home cooked cakes, all compliments of his wife Christine. Thanks to all who helped with the effort.

An Apache Lake tournament would not be complete without a pre-tournament poker game. Ten guys payed \$10 each for a chance at a victory. The final two players agreed to split the pot and go to bed. I was eliminated early, and sat around with the boys sipping spirits and listening to expert opinions on subjects ranging from fishing to contemporary politics. I need to bring a bigger flashlight next year in order to make it to my trailer without tripping and falling down; twice...pretty sure it was the bad lighting.

There were lots of other great memories that will only matter to those who were there, but just some random thoughts. John Hawkins passionate story telling, Tom Alauria's baby back ribs, raccoons inside Ray Riley's truck and Tony Medina's boat, Jack's meat-less bean-less chili, Neil Burn's return to the group, spending time making new friends, Gary Asmus' salty attitude about evening noise, Tony Medina's new and improved outdoor shower, watching a 40 foot RV try and back up a boat into a parking spot in the middle of our compound at night while trying not to hit our boats, Ernie and Jack talking politics, Lionel Frailey's return to form, Bernie's homemade sauerkraut, and Howard Thomas dragging my 29 pound Buffalo Carp off the

Continued on page 2

**NOV 10TH U.S. MARINE
CORPS
239TH BIRTHDAY**



**Monthly Breakfast Meeting
Deer Valley Airport
Restaurant
702 W. Deer Valley Rd
Phoenix, AZ
1st Wednesday of Each
Month 8:00 A.M.**

"We Practice Catch and Release"

back of his boat so I could present it at the weigh in. Good times.

Thanks to all who pitch in at both the barbeque and the weigh-in each month; couldn't do it without you guys.



Tournament Report
Lake Apache
October 16, 2014
By Terry Tassin

Great fishing and catching for some of the competitors. Quite a number of bass (and other species) caught. Not as hot temperature wise, but its Arizona in the Fall so that is to be expected. Many thanks to all participants for ensuring all the released fish made it back safely into the lake. Now, on to the tournament winner comments.

Next Meeting
Next Tournament

Our next club general meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, 5 November** starting at 8:00 AM, at **Deer Valley Airport Restaurant** (just one mile north of I-101 at the intersection of 7th Ave & Deer Valley Road). We hope you will come early and have breakfast together.

The next club point tournament will be at **Lake Saguario** on **19 November 2014**. Club launch headquarters and weigh-in location will be announced. Tournament hours are **Safe Light to 3 PM**.

Team Gary Grimes & Joe Weisgerber Fish C-Rig For 1st Place

Taking home **1st Place**, Team **Gary Grimes & Joe Weisgerber** caught the winning creel of five bass weighing 16.60 lbs. Gary's 29.08 lb carp earned the team an additional \$100 for the **Goon Fish** prize.



1st Place & Goon Fish Prize
Gary Grimes & Joe Weisgerber

Gary Grimes: Joe Weisgerber and I struggled early, and only had two fish in the boat at noon. Things started to change after hooking up a 29 pound Buffalo Carp, I think battling the fish helped clear my mind. With only a couple of hours left, and not a lot of hope, I decided to simplify things and go to a trustworthy spot and fish baits I feel comfortable with. We broke out the Carolina-rigs and started throwing. Joe had never caught a fish on the C-rig before, and after a few lost rigs and misplaced hook sets, quickly became quite proficient at the technique, landing two of our largest fish. Funny how fishing is though, I fished another tournament at Apache the Saturday before with Jerry

Askam and was only able to land one single fish.

Joe Weisgerber: Our day started out slow only bringing in two fish. Things started looking up when Gary hooked a "little" goon fish and spent the next 40 minutes bringing it up to the boat. Then with only about 2 hours left, Gary said we should go back to the flats and finish our day. 30 minutes later Gary gets me fishing the Carolina rig and the fish started turning on; it was one after another. We were pulling in fish as everyone was flying by on their way back to the ramp.

Team Richie Rojas & Mark Royal Fish Main Lake For 2nd Overall

In **2nd Place** the team of **Rojas & Royal** weighed five bass for a total weight of 12.86 lbs.



2nd Place
Richie Rojas & Mark Royal

Mark Royal: First of all congratulations to Gary and Joe – 4 pounds is some serious separation from the field – well done!

Richie and I spent Tuesday pre-fishing and could not buy a reaction bite – aside from a 10

lb cat caught on a jerk bait. So our plan of action was to not spend a lot of time doing what did not work, although between the two of us we still had poles rigged with cranks, spinners, buzz baits and jerk baits. Tournament day was a repeat of Tuesday – no reaction bite.

Richie began the morning with our big fish, 4 pounds, caught on a drop shot with a 6 inch morning dawn Robo worm. We fished the north and south side of main lake and never went much beyond Turtle Island. After the 4 pounder, Richie caught the next three fish drop shotting and from my standpoint he was on fire as I could not seem to get bit. I later used my fallback and began to roll a spinnerbait off the bottom and caught a fish next to the buoy that says "fish here" (Habitat). Late in the day

Richie caught two more, one on drop shot, one on a jig, and we were able to cull two. At that point my confidence was shot and I began to study his every move. It was a pleasure to watch a truly gifted fisherman at work – my good luck to draw him.

Team Dwayne Steel & Tom Savage Work Burnt Corral to Finish 3rd

Team **Steel & Savage** weighed five bass for 12.25 pounds and took home **Third Place** honors.



3rd Place
Dwayne Steel & Tom Savage

Tom Savage: Thank you to everybody responsible for the tournament and barbeque. I had a great time!

Also, thank you to Christine Murdock for the potato salad, pasta and fantastic desert.

The brats were great--thank you Gary Asmus.

Dwayne Steel and I caught all our fish using drop shots and jigs. We started at Burnt Corral then went down the river and back again, finishing at Burnt Corral. What a day!

Team Gary Senft & Sean Ballard Drop Shot For 4th Place

Taking home **4th Place**, Team **Senft & Ballard** weighed five fish for a total weight of 11.32 lbs.

Gary Senft: Hi guys I thought I would say something because Sean Ballard left to go deer hunting. Sean and I started out really slow; we only caught one fish in three hours. It's a good thing I got to go prefishing for two days before the tournament day. My bite I had two weeks before this week went south. The little front we had Tuesday and Wednesday turned the fish off in the morning. It's a good thing they started to bite a little after noon. The only way we could catch any fish was drop shotting. Morning Dawn, Red Crawler, and Salt River Craw where the best colors. You had to really find the fish to catch the bigger ones. We caught our bigger fish 25 to 32 feet deep fishing slowly. We had a spinner bait and crank bait bite but all we caught were small fish.



4th Place
Gary Senft & Sean Ballard



The Rules By Gary Grimes

I am pretty certain that everyone reads the Bass Bites and enjoys Terry Tassin's labor of love. It is always exciting to read the tournament winner's recap of how they found success, but we can't read it if you don't write it. But you say, "I can't write" or "I hate writing." If you can talk, which all of you can, then you can write. You do not have to write a two page essay, just a couple of short paragraphs, heck even a couple of sentences will do. How did you catch your fish? Was there anything notable about your day on the water? Enough said.

Sean and I had a good time on the water fishing. I think we have the best club out there. Thanks to all the guys that run this club you do a great job.

Team Gary Asmus & Jim Buchanan Buzz Their Way To 5th Place Overall Finish

Taking home **5th Place**, Team **Asmus & Buchanan** weighed five fish for a total weight of 10.76 lbs. Gary's biggest fish weighing 4.43 lbs also won the team **1st Place Big Fish Honors**.

Gary Asmus: I drew Jim Buchanan as a co-angler, what a great man to fish with. We prefished Tuesday and as we started out I told Jim that we really don't want to hook any fish the day before a tournament.



5th Place & 1st Place Big Fish Gary Asmus & Jim Buchanan

Well we shook off several bites during the morning and had a plan for tournament day.

We started out at Turtle Island with buzz baits and left there in an hour or so with a limit in the boat to go toad hunting.

After culling several fish while still using buzz baits and blades, the big one came on a buzz bait at midday on a sandy beach!

Team Neil Burns & Dennis Sullivan Weigh 2nd Place Big Bass

The team of **Burns & Sullivan** weighed three bass one of which weighed 4.29 lbs and was enough to earn them **2nd Place Big Fish** honors.



2nd Place Big Fish Neil Burns & Dennis Sullivan

No 'catching' report was provided but above is a photo of Neil with the bass.

Team Gary Grimes & Joe Weisgerber Win Goon Fish Prize

Gary Grimes: Joe Weisgerber and I were not having a great morning, only boating two small fish in over 5 hours. I was throwing a C-rig, working it carefully across the bottom when I felt a small bump. I set the hook, and the fish takes off. My heavyweight graphite rod is bent in half; I can hear my fluorocarbon line creaking from the strain as I frantically reach for the drag star to loosen the tension. I can barely move this fish; all I can do is hope he tires. Sometimes he would just sit there, and then he would take off and run. There were times I wasn't sure if I had enough line on my spool. The fish flashed once near the surface and Joe excitedly exclaims that I have a new world record largemouth. After 45 minutes (the time gets longer each time I tell this story), we finally land the fish, a 29 lb. Buffalo Carp. Thank you Howard Thomas for graciously towing the fish on your boat, as my live well was not big enough.

Tournament Statistics
Forty-three men fished 8.5 hours each, bringing 85 keeper bass to the scales for a total weight of 151.38 pounds with a 3.52 pound average total catch per fisherman. The average weight of each fish was 1.78 lbs. All fish were released back into the lake after weigh-in to fight again another day.

Treasure Chest By John Reichard, Treasurer

Just a quick note from your treasurer; sorry I missed all the fun at the tournament. Since the 5lb pot was not won the pot will roll over to next month.



Weighing-In

By Jack Hughes,
Tmx Director

Our just past Apache tournament was for me outstanding even though I had a miserable day fishing which was more than offset with the experience of fishing with Dick Kirberg for the first time. Dick is a very knowledgeable fisherman, but he is much more than a fisherman he is a gentleman, could be the club historian, politician and most of all a very patriotic American (not a surprise since he is a former Marine).

Dick was one of the first seven members when the club was formed and over two days enlighten me on the clubs transformation from founding to the current status. Up to this tournament I always considered Terry Tassin as our expert on club history, Dick changed all that. So in the future if you have a chance to fish with Terry, Lionel, or Dick ask about the club history it will make your day even better especially if the fish are not biting.

We are down to one tournament to go for 2014. Saguaro will be our final tournament of the year and I would really like to see us set a new club record with at least 30 boats. The club has hit 29 boats twice in the past. Wouldn't it be nice to see at least 60% of our members present at one tournament, especially the last tournament of the year? In addition, the tight race for Angler of the Year

will be decided at Saguaro so come on out and see who's the winner.

Last month I reported that on TNF lakes the government was considering new fees, and possibly restrictions on how many times a club could fish a lake per month. Both of those proposed change have been scuttled by government lawyers that found each in some type of violation. TNF and AZG&F I am told are looking at new ideas to protect the lakes for future fishing. The good thing is, I think, that they are in agreement they want to improve fishing at the lakes and protect them for future anglers.

All of the board members have been receiving inputs for the price of tickets for the drawing at our annual club banquet. Should we change the price of the drawing tickets from \$1 to \$5? The club is **NOT** looking to make more profit which we will not make, our concern is when we sell over 2200 tickets it slows down everything from getting your tickets to awarding of prizes. Our concern is keeping the evening moving, enjoyable and not boring while members search for the winning ticket. It appeared to the board we had two choices - reduce the number of prizes, **not acceptable to any of the board members**, or go to \$5 tickets. If we went to five dollar tickets your odds of winning remain the same as the \$1 ticket. However, we would reduce the time it takes to purchase your tickets (you're not at the banquet to stand in a line) and complete the drawing,

also our wives will not get bored. I believe our President is going to bring this up at the next meeting for open discussion so please give it some serious thought.

Finally, I want to thank the Rusty Murdock family for their outstanding contributions to the club BBQ at Apache. The food and desserts, prepared I assume, by Christine were excellent. The Murdock's volunteering was a welcome relief of the same people always doing everything for our cookouts. For me it was the first time in three years I did not have to rush off the lake and start cooking for the BBQ. Charles and Christine thanks for the break but more important thanks for supporting the club. One last thing, seeing their son Micah running around the camp trying to take everything in reminded me of 65 years ago when my father took me to my first fishing camp, I am sure Micah will also always remember the day his parents took him to Apache Lake to enjoy the fun of club fishing.

Guest Column

By Mike Shaw

You never know when a health issue may strike you on the water, but this happened to me last month.

I see doctors on a regular basis for preventative care and get all the annual checkups that should keep me healthy. Except for controlling my blood pressure and cholesterol I've

been given a clean bill of health. That all changed during a Bass Nation Qualifier tournament in September.

I drew my signup partner and good friend with the only negative was we were to be the start boat. We had prefished Bartlett and both are very knowledgeable of the lake. We were on fish. When we arrived at our spot up the river it was partially occupied by one of the early boats (the tournament winner), but we agreed to share the space. We caught a few early fish and lost two quality fish around 4 pounds each near the boat which I guess was a predictor of what was to come, for me at least.

Around 9 am I started noticing my head becoming heavy and a strain on my neck and back muscles. One of my eyelids began to droop that my partner noticed first. Over the next hour I could hardly stand or use my butt seat. My only relief was to sit in the passenger seat and dropshot. Within minutes my chin was anchored against my chest and the only way to get my head back up was to push it up and hold it with my hands.

As a diehard angler I pushed on feeling that things weren't getting any worse, no pain and I would be heading home after the weigh in. Unfortunately, I let what may have been our winning fish get off my dropshot, a 4+ pounder, in the last hour but I was still optimistic.

Fast forward to arriving home. My wife said to the emergency room immediately but I wanted to wait until the next day. She

won! The ER staff went to work and ordered X-rays, CT scans, blood tests and a variety of things that I don't really know what they did. Then they told me I was staying the night. The attending physician said based on the prelim findings I may have had a stroke.

Next day, in come the neurologists. They discounted a stroke but needed more CT scans, blood tests and two MRIs. For those of you that haven't had an MRI, think of being stuffed in a fishing rod shipping tube for two hours and unable to move. It will freak you out. After three days of sticking needles in me, some times the same place twice, having IVs attached and waking me every 4 hours at night, they gave me a preliminary diagnosis of Myasthenia Gravis.

What is this? The thymus gland sits just below the chest bone and in front of the heart. Its purpose is to activate the auto immune system in children until about age 12 and then slowly wastes away. Unfortunately in some people not all of the gland is absorbed by the body and can stimulate the immune system at a later time. When this happens as in my case, my nerves are being attacked and my muscles will not respond to commands. It can affect the upper body or even your arms and legs make you immobile. After more CT scans and blood tests, the results were a slam dunk as the doctor said. Treatment plan? There are only two

methods - surgery by going through the chest like open heart surgery or via drug therapy. We opted for the drugs. Right now I am taking drugs to reduce the symptoms and allow me to keep my head up and swallow better with another drug to break down my immune system. Once that is done, I will be given additional drugs to rebuild my immune system and we can then see if everything was successful. If not, I may be destined to opening the chest.

In summary, when your body is trying to tell you something, you should listen. It could have been something much worse. It could have been life threatening. Sometimes you need to let that desire to catch that next fish go for another day.



**Unlimited TNF Pass
By Gary Grimes**

It's dark when I show up at the lake and prep the boat for launch. I usually go through a short mental checklist before backing into the water as my thoughts then shift to which spot will be my first stop of the day. It's usually not until I have parked my truck and am walking down to the ramp that a thought occurs to me, "Damn, I forgot to put my pass out!" I run back to the truck, grab a pass out of my glove box and throw it on the dash. After a full day of fishing while on my way home, there lies that unmarked pass on my dash. It is so tempting to simply put it back into the

glove box, since it is not marked. Sound familiar?

With all the recent news from the Tonto National Forest that they simply do not generate sufficient funds and are looking at different ways to raise their fees, it got me thinking about their fee structure. While at Apache Lake for 5 days, I had my required day pass on my dash, unmarked. The same pass sat there for all 5 days, even though I had another 6 in my glove box, which I subsequently disposed of when I returned home, after all, I did in fact use the facilities. I spoke with several other anglers who did the same thing. So this got me thinking, how much revenue TNF is losing because of uncollected fees, so I sent my thoughts to a TNF manager running the lead on the proposed rate increase discussion. I shared my experience, and he was not surprised when I offered my observations about fees lost at the lakes. His belief is that they could be losing up to 40% of their fees due to non-compliance. Wow!

Of course I was unable to offer TNF much of a solution to the problem, but the dash passes sure seem like an antiquated system. As for enforcement, I occasionally see a TNF employee driving through the camp loop or parking lot, looking for blue passes, but unless he actually walks up to my vehicle there is no way to determine if my pass has been properly marked for the day of use. It is likely that his schedule for the day simply does not afford him the time of walking to each vehicle, as he probably has a thousand other tasks to tend to before his day is done.

So my point is this, these dash passes rely largely upon an honor system, and the monies derived from the passes are used to maintain and improve our facilities so that we can continue to enjoy them. So when we don't pay the appropriate fee, in reality we are only hurting ourselves. So even if you have forgotten to scratch that pass, throw it away for after all, it is not an unlimited pass.

Photo Scrapbook - Lake Apache - October 15, 2014



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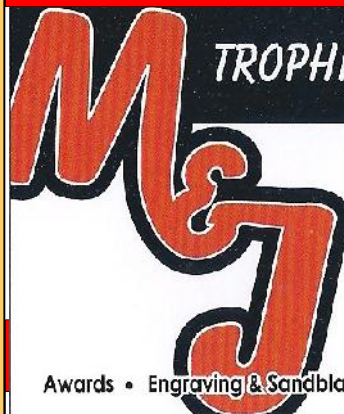
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**Best Wishes and Happy Birthday
Born in November**

- Ron Chambers**
- George Cobasky**
- Steve Cook**
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- Mike Shaw**
- Dennis Thiel**



**Midweek Bass Anglers 2014
Tournament Schedule**

15 January	Bartlett
19 February	Pleasant
19 March	Havasu
15-16 April	Apache (1.5 Days)
21 May	Roosevelt
18 June	Saguaro
16 July	Bartlett
20 August	Saguaro
17 September	Roosevelt
15 October	Apache
19 November	Saguaro